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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/017,852	12/12/2001	David J. Norris	42P11635	9597
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8791 7590 08/23/2005

BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN
12400 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD
SEVENTH FLOOR
LOS ANGELES, CA 90025-1030

EXAMINER

HOANG, THAI D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2667

DATE MAILED: 08/23/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/017,852	NORRIS ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Thai D. Hoang	2667	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 June 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 6-13 and 17-19 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 and 14-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

Claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being unpatentable by Srinivasan, US Patent Application Publication 2001/0023430 A1.

Regarding claims 1 and 14, Srinivasan discloses a method and system provides for the simultaneous processing of audio and document information during a conference call. The system creates a conference bridge that allows a plurality of participants access to the conferencing over a data network using IP telephony (receiving a request to create an audio bridge session over a packet network between a plurality of call terminals). Srinivasan discloses that an access code (bridge number) is distributed to all participants. At the time that an audio conference is to be held, the participants call into the audio conference bridge. The attendees can establish audio communications through their user interface using IP telephony. The conferencing bridge also includes a connection to the data network and is able to receive and process the IP telephony communications, paragraphs [0005]-[0006] and [0022] (designating an access number associated with at least one of said plurality of call terminals participating in said audio bridge session as a bridge number; and creating said audio bridge session using said access number).

Regarding claims 3 and 15, in figure 3, Srinivasan discloses the system comprises the steps of: receiving phone calls from conference participants for access to the conference (receiving a plurality of call requests with said access number). The processor of the system will perform an analysis of the access code (bridge number or PIN), and if the number is invalid access to the meeting will be denied. If the number is valid, access is granted and a further query is made of each attendee (determining whether said access number is a bridge number using a bridge table; establishing a call connection for each call request if said access number is said bridge number). Finally, the system combines all requested access to begin conference (combining each call connection to form said audio bridge session). Fig.3, paragraphs [0022] and [0026].

Regarding claims 4 and 16, since the system disclosed by Srinivasan is a conference system between a leader and participants, therefore, it inherently comprises the steps as recited in claim 4 for transmitting, mixing and receiving IP packet (receiving a stream of packets representing audio information over each call connection; directing each stream of packets to an intermediate device; and mixing said streams of packets.)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

(a) Claims 2 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Srinivasan as shown above.

Regarding claim 2, Srinivasan discloses participants of conference use the access code to access the conference instead of telephone number, paragraph [0006]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to substitute access code as disclosed in Srinivasan's system by a telephone number for simplifying system function.

Regarding claim 5, Srinivasan does not explicitly disclose the system operates in accordance with a Transport Control Protocol, Internet Protocol, and H.323 specification. However, TCP/IP and H.323 are well known in the art. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply TCP/IP and H.323 in to Srinivasan's system in order to adapt with conventional system used in the Network.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 6-13 and 17-19 are allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Srinivasan, US Patent Application Publication 2001/0023430 A1 disclose a method and system that provides for the simultaneous processing of audio and document information during a conference call. Srinivasan does not teach or fairly suggest all of the following features, which are recited in each independent claim of the present application:

A method to form an audio bridge over a packet network, comprising:

receiving a call request to form a first call connection between a first call terminal and a second call terminal using an access number for said second terminal;
establishing said first call connection;
receiving a call request to form a second call connection between a third call terminal and said second call terminal;
determining whether said access number is a bridge number;
creating an audio bridge session in accordance with said determination; and
designating an access number associated with at least one of said first, second and third of call terminals participating in said audio bridge session as a bridge number as recited in claims 6 and 17.

An audio bridge system, comprising:

a gatekeeper connected to said gateway, said gatekeeper having a bridge table, said bridge table having an access number for a call terminal and information indicating whether said access number is also a bridge number as recited in claim 10.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-5 and 14-16 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within


TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thai D. Hoang whose telephone number is (571) 272-3184. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 10:00am-6:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chi Pham can be reached on (571) 272-3179. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Thai Hoang


CHI PHAM
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINE
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2667 8/19/05